



As a caption for this editorial we use Artist Taylor's conception of the sky line of Jacksonville under present conditions.

During one of our visits to a vaudeville show we heard one comedian give a conundrum to another comedian: "What is it," said he, "that wears feathers, has two legs, a red comb and spurs, and barks like a dog?" Of course the other "gave it up." "It's a rooster," said the first one. "But why did you say it barked like a dog?" asked the other. "Just put that in to make it harder," was the reply.

We were reminded of this conundrum when we picked up Ordinance No. H 51 of the City of Jacksonville, the caption of which is: "An Ordinance authorizing the remodeling of the Seaboard Air Line Railway freight yards south of Bay Street and between Bridge Street and Hogan Street."

There are three sections in this ordinance. Section 1 is divided into eight parts. The sixth part of Section 1 AUTHORIZES THE SEABOARD AIR LINE TO USE THE FOOT OF HOGAN STREET FROM THE SHORE LINE TO

DEEP WATER, SOME 350 FEET, FOR THE TERM OF THIRTY YEARS, WITHOUT PAYING ONE CENT FOR IT.

The other seven clauses of Section 1 and the remaining two sections of the ordinance authorize the Seaboard Air Line Railway to do other things, all of which they could have done without the aid of the ordinance.

The Seaboard Air Line Railway WANTED TO GRAB THE FOOT OF HOGAN STREET and framed up the sixth part of Section 1 for that purpose. The other parts of the ordinance were put in for the purpose of covering up the design of Section 6.

In accordance with the provisions of that ordinance, which was passed on by City Attorney Barrs, the Seaboard Air Line is proceeding to build a wharf at the foot of Hogan Street, OCCUPYING PRACTICALLY THE ENTIRE STREET. Some such word as "driveway" is used in the ordinance, but no one believes or can be made to believe that the Seaboard Air Line Railway will build this wharf FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC.

Dig Before You Tax

When our well-meaning friends prepare a nice little program for us we are loath to break into it in any way. It is therefore with considerable diffidence that we are compelled to demolish the nice structure which one or two of our brothers have reared for us, under which we have been pictured as sitting in close communion with Governor Broward, ENDORSING ALL OF HIS ACTS. To those who have said that we stand sponsor for the Governor, and to those who may have thought it without expressing the thought, we apologize for being compelled to spoil this beautiful picture.

WE ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF THE COLLECTION AT PRESENT OF THE TAX WHICH HAS BEEN LEVIED AGAINST THE LANDS IN THE EVERGLADES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAINAGE.

We do not think it is proper to collect a special tax on lands UNTIL THE BENEFIT HAS ACCRUED.

We are not much disturbed about the condition of the "poor" people who have aroused the sympathies of some of our brothers, who may own some of the lands subject to this tax. Our information about the ownership of the lands in the area affected by the tax confirms us in the statement that the total amount to be collected from small and poor land owners IS SO INCONSIDERABLE THAT IT WILL NOT BE A BURDEN upon the aforesaid poor land owners.

All but a very small part of this large area is owned by rich corporations; so, our opposition to the tax comes not from any hysterical idea that the poor are being ground down into further poverty.

We are opposed to the collection of this tax because we do not think it a correct principle to collect special taxes on property UNTIL THE BENEFIT HAS ACCRUED.

Particularly are we opposed to the collection of special taxes until the land is benefited, when there is an element of doubt that the land WILL BE benefited.

Eminent engineers have said that the drainage of the Everglades is entirely feasible and practicable and that the lands which are now practically worthless will be made very valuable, but before the collection of a special tax is justifiable the ULTIMATE BENEFIT SHOULD BE CERTAIN, and it would be better to wait until the benefit has actually taken place.

We have arrived at another conclusion in regard to the Everglades drainage proposition.

It is the duty of the present Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund to drain the Everglades.

The Act of Congress by which the lands were granted to the State expressly directs the work of drainage and reclamation. The Act of the Legislature creating the Board is specific in pointing out this duty of the Trustees. Every Governor and every Board since 1855 has recognized the binding force of this obligation. Every Governor has made some effort to drain the Everglades.

Governor Bloxham, during his first term, tried to carry out this obligation; Governor Perry recognized it and made efforts to perform the work; Governor Mitchell in his turn took up the question of drainage and reclamation and by his acts recognized the binding force of the obligation; Governor Fleming did what he could to carry on the work his predecessors had done.

Governor Bloxham, during his second term, not only reaffirmed his recognition of this obligation, BUT ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT with a corporation by which it was proposed to drain the entire area. All of these Governors and all of the Boards preceding the present Governor and Board have held the one opinion, THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF THE TRUSTEES TO DRAIN THE EVERGLADES.

The only difference between the present Governor and Board and those that have preceded is THE MANNER IN WHICH THE WORK SHALL BE DONE.

Governor Bloxham tried to do it by contract. Other Governors made efforts along this line. All failed, and but very little drainage was done during the fifty years that have elapsed between the time of the creation of the Board of Trustees and the present.

Napoleon B. Broward, candidate for Governor, conceived the idea THAT THE STATE SHOULD DRAIN THE EVERGLADES. He announced it on the stump. The people elected him Governor, giving Broward's idea the endorsement which was necessary to raise it into a question of State policy.

Not only is the obligation to drain the Everglades just as great upon Governor Broward and the present Board of Trustees as it has ever been on other Governors and other Boards, but Broward and the present Board are placed under an ADDITIONAL OBLIGATION WHICH IS OF FAR GREATER WEIGHT AND IS IMPOSED BY MUCH MORE COMPETENT AUTHORITY than that of any Act of any Legislature, be it State or national.

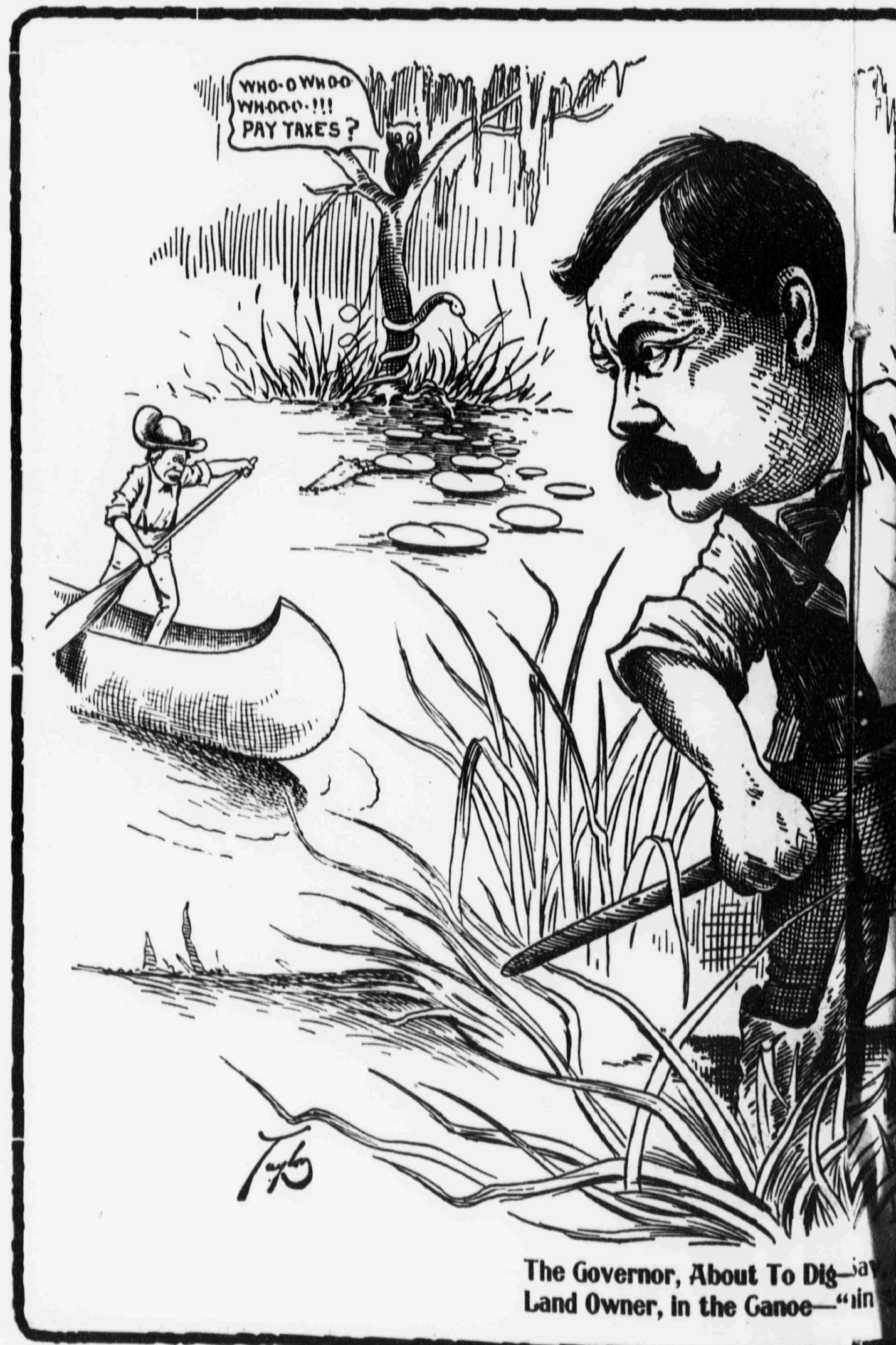
IT IS THE DIRECT INSTRUCTION OF THE PEOPLE, THROUGH THE BALLOT, that the work of draining and reclaiming the Everglades should be prosecuted by the State, acting through the Board of Trustees.

We believe that the plan to drain as outlined by the present Board is entirely practicable and feasible. We have formed this opinion from our own study of the question. We have been influenced in the forming of this opinion by the opinion of all of the Governors who have preceded Governor Broward and all the engineers who have made exhaustive surveys and full reports on the subject.

WE ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF THE COLLECTION AT PRESENT OF THE TAX TO CARRY OUT THIS WORK until the land is benefited by drainage, because we think it would be an unjust asset.

But the work of draining the Everglades is not at all dependent upon the collection of this tax. The Board can do it another way.

The funds which are at present available, and those funds which can be



The Governor, About To Dig—say Land Owner, in the Canoe—"in